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By way of illustration, claim 143 would now read with the latest change "double underlined":

"143. (currently amended) An impact tool comprising:

a shaft having a striking end and a working end; and

a shaped polymeric material reinforced by a material selected from the group of fiber or mineral, to be impacted disposed adjacent to said striking end to avoid direct metal-to-metal contact,

said shaped polymeric material having a striking end area of said polymeric material adjacent to said striking end and an impact end area to be impacted roughly opposite said striking end area,

said shaped polymeric material being of sufficient cross-sectional area for transmitting impact upon the impact end area, of appropriate thickness through said cross-sectional area, and of sufficient modulus to enable greater than sixty-seven per cent impact effectiveness compared to a similar impact tool without said polymeric material disposed adjacent to said striking end: and

said impact tool further being capable of being struck on said impact end area at least 250 times without deformation of said shaped polymeric material that alters said impact effectiveness of said impact tool."

The response of September 2, 2008 is adopted herein except that the amendments are presented as requested and discussed in the examiner interview.

The Office is thanked for its courtesy.